

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 14, 2008
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: California Alliance of Child and Family Services

BILL NUMBER: SB 1380
AUTHOR: D. Steinberg

BILL SUMMARY

This bill would expand eligibility to the Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) program and change ITFC program requirements associated with services, reporting, and training.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in increased General Fund costs to the Department of Social Services. Although a precise estimate is not available at this time, a preliminary estimate is that one new limited-term position would be needed to develop regulations and a new rate structure.

The bill would maintain the existing requirement that the services provided by the program be cost-neutral (i.e. no more expensive than group-home placement). In addition, the author's office indicates that the bill should result in cost savings, because the highest ITFC rate is lower than group home rates for some of the newly eligible population. However, there may be increased costs for services, if the expanded eligibility requirements allow children to transition to ITFC from less expensive levels of care. In addition, the expansion of the ITFC program may not be fully eligible for federal Title IV-E funds.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it would result in increased General Fund costs.

Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) is designed to provide a higher level of support and services so that a child graduating from a level 12 group home can succeed in a foster family and in the community. Children in this program have a history of self-destructive behavior and aggression and are at risk for placement in a higher level facility or a psychiatric hospital. **Under current law**, children who are emotionally disturbed and have been placed, or are in danger of placement in level 12 or above group home, may be eligible for ITFC services in participating counties. The ITFC program provides intensive counseling and support services to foster parents and eligible children, including education, mental health, and health services.

This bill would expand eligibility by expanding the eligibility requirements to include children in level 9 group homes or above and other children who have been identified as at-risk of multiple out-of-home placements. This bill would make various other changes to the ITFC program and training requirements.

The purpose of this bill is to improve outcomes for youth by expanding the use of the ITFC and reducing use of group homes.

Analyst/Principal (0534) E. Swanson	Date	Program Budget Manager Michael Wilkening	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(2)
AUTHOR AMENDMENT DATE**

Form DF-43
BILL NUMBER

D. Steinberg

July 14, 2008

SB 1380

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						
Code/Department	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue	CO	PROP							Fund
Type	RV	98	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	Code
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0890
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0890	Trust Fund, Federal								